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PAGE 01  
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LIMA 13273 01 OF 05 041750Z

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Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.  
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Date 2/27/02 Exemption \_\_\_\_\_

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ L SECTION 01 OF 05 LIMA 13273

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD JOHN YOULE

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, PREL, PE  
SUBJECT: POLITICAL WRAP-UP: OCTOBER 20-NOVEMBER 2

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. TABLE OF CONTENTS

-- OVERVIEW (PARA 3)

-- GARCIA WATCH: RETURN TO PUBLIC ACTIVITY  
-- HAS UPS AND DOWNS (PARA 4)

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PAGE 02 LIMA 13273 01 OF 05 041750Z

-- YUGOSLAV PRESIDENT LAZAR MOJSOV VISITS  
-- PERU: DEBT INITIATIVE DISCUSSED (PARA 5)  
-- A (NEW) DIFFERENT FUTURE? (PARA 6)  
-- APRA PARAMILITARY SUSPECTS RELEASED  
-- (PARA 7)  
-- ALANISTAS AND ALVISTAS STILL FIGHTING  
-- FOR CONTROL OF CONGRESS (PARA 8)  
-- MARXIST CGTP REELECTS TOP LEADERS (PARA 9)

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-- UPCOMING EVENTS (PARA 10)  
-- POLITICAL EVENTS REPORTED SEPARATELY (PARA 11)  
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3. OVERVIEW  
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THE BANK EXPROPRIATION SAGA AND THE WAVE OF STRIKES THAT HAS AFFECTED THE PUBLIC SECTOR SINCE THE BEGINNING OF SEPTEMBER CONTINUED TO DOMINATE HEADLINES THESE PAST TWO WEEKS. PRESIDENT GARCIA'S OCTOBER 25 PLEDGE TO REMAIN NEUTRAL IN THE BANK EXPROPRIATION LEGAL BATTLE WAS SEEN AT FIRST AS A GENUINE OFFER OF CONCILIATION. THIS PERCEPTION, HOWEVER, CHANGED SHORTLY THEREAFTER WHEN A CON-

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PAGE 03 LIMA 13273 01 OF 05 041750Z

TROVERSIAL JUDGE WHO HAD OPPOSED THE GOVERNMENT'S INTERVENTION OF BANCO DE CREDITO AND BANCO WIESE WAS SUMMARILY DISMISSED BY THE SUPREME COURT WITHOUT THE BENEFIT OF A HEARING. THE HAND OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH WAS SEEN BEHIND THIS DISMISSAL. ON THE LABOR FRONT, AN ACROSS-THE-BOARD INCREASE FOR PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES, TEACHERS, AND NON-UNIONIZED WORKERS, AS WELL AS A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE MINIMUM WAGE ANNOUNCED OCTOBER 23, FAILED TO STOP ONGOING PUBLIC SECTOR STRIKES AND TO DISSUADE MARXIST SUTEP (TEACHERS UNION) FROM STAGING A TWO-DAY WARNING STRIKE ON OCTOBER 27-28. IN ADDITION TO THESE HEADACHES, THE GARCIA ADMINISTRATION IS NOW SUFFERING FROM A SERIOUS CREDIBILITY GAP LARGELY OF ITS OWN MAKING. CHIEFLY TO BLAME APPEARS TO BE GARCIA'S PENCHANT FOR SAYING ONE THING AND DOING THE OPPOSITE. LATEST EXAMPLE IS GARCIA'S NOMINATION OF A PERSON WITH TIES TO APRA AND A QUESTIONABLE PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND AS COMPTROLLER GENERAL AFTER HAVING PROMISED IN HIS JULY 28 STATE OF THE UNION SPEECH TO CONSULT WITH THE OPPOSITION ON A POLITICALLY INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE TO FILL THE JOB. MOVES SUCH AS THIS MAY EXPLAIN WHY RECENT POLLS SHOW A CONTINUING AND STEADY DECLINE IN GARCIA'S POPULARITY, AS WELL AS IN PEOPLE'S CONFIDENCE IN HIS ADMINISTRATION AND WHY RESURFACING THE REELECTION ISSUE AT THIS TIME -- AS APRA

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PAGE 01 LIMA 13273 02 OF 05 041753Z  
ACTION ARA-00

INFO	LOG-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-10	SS-00	CIAE-00
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 05 LIMA 13273

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WAS NOT WELL RECEIVED.

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4. GARCIA WATCH: RETURN TO PUBLIC ACTIVITY  
- HAS UPS AND DOWNS  
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PRESIDENT GARCIA HAS BEEN IN THE PUBLIC EYE  
CONSTANTLY THE LAST WEEK OR SO. HE CAUSED  
A BRIEF SENSATION OCTOBER 29 WITH A TWO AND

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PAGE 02 LIMA 13273 02 OF 05 041753Z

A HALF HOUR EXTEMPORANEOUS EXPOSITION ON REFORMING PERUVIAN EDUCATION. A CLOSE READING OF HIS SPEECH LEFT US PUZZLED AS TO WHAT HE WANTS TO ACCOMPLISH, BEYOND MAKING PERUVIAN EDUCATION LESS THEORETICAL AND MORE VOCATIONAL. HIS CRITICISMS OF ELITISM HAD THE TELEPHONES RINGING OFF THEIR HOOKS AT THE EDUCATION MINISTRY THE FOLLOWING DAY, APPARENTLY FROM CONCERN THAT PRIVATE SCHOOLS MIGHT BE TAKEN OVER. EDUCATION MINISTRY SPOKESMEN PUT OUT THAT FIRE. ON OCTOBER 31, THE PRESIDENT MADE A STRONG STATEMENT OPPOSING ANY CONCESSIONS OR DIALOGUE WITH TERRORISTS. A NOVEMBER 1 CEREMONY MARKING COMPLETION OF A FEW FISHING BOATS WENT AWRY WHEN A UNION LEADER MADE PUBLIC CHARGES OF CORRUPTION BY IMPLICATION AGAINST FISHERIES MINISTER LEBARTHE (WHO WAS PRESENT), AND REFUSED TO BE SILENCED. THE PRESIDENT MANAGED TO TURN ASIDE THE CRITICISM AND LECTURE THE FISHERMEN NOT TO EXPECT GOVERNMENT TO SOLVE ALL THEIR PROBLEMS, BUT NOT BEFORE THE MEDIA HAD A FIELD DAY, TO GARCIA'S VISIBLE ANNOYANCE. A CONSTANT THEME IN THE PRESIDENT'S PUBLIC COMMENTS LATELY HAS BEEN THAT PERU HAS FORTUNATELY TAKEN TIMELY ACTION TO INSULATE ITSELF AGAINST THE WORLD RECESSION THAT "BLACK MONDAYS" ARE FORESHADOWING. THE MODERATE OPPOSITION PRESS (E.G., "CARETAS") IS HARPING ON THE PRESIDENT'S LACK OF CREDIBILITY FOLLOWING HIS FAILURE TO CONSULT AS PROMISED ON A NEW COMPTROLLER GENERAL.

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PAGE 03 LIMA 13273 02 OF 05 041753Z

THE COVER OF "CARETAS" NOVEMBER 2 PORTRAYS THE PRESIDENT WITH A PINOCCHIO-LIKE NOSE.

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5.. YUGOSLAV PRESIDENT LAZAR MOJSOV VISITS  
- PERU: DEBT INITIATIVE DISCUSSED  
-

MOJSOV GAVE STRONG SUPPORT TO PERU ON DEBT BUT REFUSED TO BE DRAWN INTO AN INTERNAL DEBATE OVER EXPROPRIATION OF THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM IN A VISIT HERE OCTOBER 27-28. THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT FIGURED LARGELY IN AN EXCHANGE OF TOASTS, BUT THERE WAS NOTHING SAID PUBLICLY ON NAM PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS.

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IN BILATERAL RELATIONS, PERUVIAN FINANCE MINISTER SABERBEIN SUGGESTED THAT PERU WAS MOVING TOWARD PAYMENT OF A SEVERAL MILLION DOLLAR DEBT TO YUGOSLAVIA, AND THERE WERE REPORTS THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE CLOSE TO SIGNATURE OF AN AGREEMENT THAT COULD FINISH UP A LARGE IRRIGATION PROJECT (CHIRA-PIURA) IN NORTHERN PERU. MOJSOV ALSO EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR A PERUVIAN IDEA TO HOST A SIX-NATION INITIATIVE ON DEBT -- AN ANALOGUE TO THE SIX-NATION DISARMAMENT INITIATIVE. FOREIGN MINISTER WAGNER TOLD NEWSMEN AFTER MOJSOV'S DEPARTURE THAT THE MFA IS WORKING ON SUCH A CONCEPT, WHICH IT HOPES TO BRING TO FRUITION "SOON," BUT OFFERED NO DETAILS BEYOND STATING THAT IT WOULD INVOLVE DEBTOR NATIONS FROM LATIN AMERICA, ASIA, AND AFRICA (NOT NECESSARILY EXCLUSIVELY). WAGNER TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT THIS WAS

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PAGE 04

LIMA 13273 02 OF 05 041753Z

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PAGE 01 LIMA 13273 03 OF 05 041754Z  
ACTION ARA-00

INFO	LOG-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-10	SS-00	CIAE-00
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ L SECTION 03 OF 05 LIMA 13273

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD JOHN YOULE

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JUST A GENERAL IDEA WITH NO FRAMEWORK OR  
MEMBERSHIP (OTHER THAN DEVELOPING -- BUT  
NECESSARILY "NON-ALIGNED" -- COUNTRIES  
IN MIND.

6. A (NEW) DIFFERENT FUTURE?

ACCOMPANIED BY HIS NEW EDITOR, ENRIQUE

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PAGE 02 LIMA 13273 03 OF 05 041754Z

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MIRANDA, ON OCTOBER 31 PRESIDENT GARCIA HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE THE SECOND EDITION OF HIS 1982 BOOK "A DIFFERENT FUTURE." PRESIDENT GARCIA CLAIMED THAT HIS 1985 DECISION TO LIMIT PAYMENTS ON THE DEBT MAY HAVE VACCINATED THE COUNTRY AGAINST POSSIBLE FUTURE EFFECTS OF THE OCTOBER 19 DROP IN THE U.S. STOCK MARKET. HE PREDICTED THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD TRY TO COMBAT ITS OWN BUDGET DEFICIT PROBLEMS BY SEEKING TO ATTRACT FUNDS FROM LAT IN AMERICAN, AFRICAN AND, TO A LESSER DEGREE, ASIAN COUNTRIES. THE U.S. DEFICIT PROBLEM, HE SAID, WAS FUELED BY THE STAGGERING AMOUNTS SPENT ON THE STAR WARS PROGRAM AND AGGRAVATED BY THE UNWILLINGNESS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS TO CUT SPENDING FOR SOCIAL PROGRAMS. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES INVENTED THE BAKER PLAN TO COUNTER THE GROWING INFLUENCE OF THE PERUVIAN THESIS ON DEBT ON THE ECONOMIC THINKING IN OTHER COUNTRIES. (THIS IDEA HAS BEEN PREVALENT HERE SINCE IT FIRST APPEARED IN THE "NEW YORK TIMES" SEVERAL WEEKS AGO ATTRIBUTED TO FORMER TREASURY OFFICIAL ROBIN BROAD.)

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7. APRA PARAMILITARY SUSPECTS RELEASED  
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PAGE 03 LIMA 13273 03 OF 05 041754Z

CLAIMING INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE, A LIMA DISTRICT ATTORNEY (FISCAL) HAS DROPPED CHARGES AGAINST MIGUEL RIOS SAENZ, THE SURVIVOR OF THE FAILED OCTOBER 2 BOMBING ATTACK AGAINST THE PRO-TERRORIST DAILY "EL DIARIO" (LIMA 12040). THE FISCAL ALSO ORDERED RIOS' RELEASE FROM POLICE DETENTION (HE WAS BEING TREATED FOR BOMB BLAST INJURIES IN THE POLICE HOSPITAL). SEVERAL HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS AND MEDIA CONDEMNED THE FISCAL'S DECISION, POINTING TO NUMEROUS DISCREPANCIES IN RIOS' VERSION OF EVENTS. RIOS' RELEASE FOLLOWS THAT OF JAIME BEDON, THE APRA YOUTH LEADER WHO APPARENTLY SOUGHT TO KIDNAP A LEFTIST CONGRESSMAN (LIMA 12541).

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THERE ARE CIVIL SUITS PENDING AGAINST  
BOTH BEDON AND RIOS.

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8. ALANISTAS AND ALVISTAS STILL FIGHTING  
- FOR CONTROL OF CONGRESS  
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PRESIDENT GARCIA AND HIS SUPPORTERS IN THE  
APRA PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS WERE DEALT ANOTHER  
BLOW ON OCTOBER 29 WHEN THAT GROUP ELECTED  
CONGRESSMAN LUIS ALVARADO CONTRERAS (A 1986  
IV GRANTEE) TO HEAD THIS BICAMERAL GROUP  
FOR THE NEXT YEAR. A DYED-IN-THE-WOOL OLD  
GUARD APRISTA, ALVARADO CONTRERAS TOLD US  
NOVEMBER 3 THAT HE HAD NOT CAMPAIGNED FOR

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PAGE 04

LIMA 13273 03 OF 05 041754Z

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PAGE 01 LIMA 13273 04 OF 05 041756Z  
ACTION ARA-00

INFO	LOG-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-10	SS-00	CIAE-00
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THE JOB BUT REALIZED THAT SUPPORTERS OF LUIS ALVA CASTRO HAD FAVORED HIM OVER GARCIA'S OWN CANDIDATE, CONGRESSMAN JUAN MANUEL CORONADO BALMACEDA. WE SUSPECT THAT ALVARADO CONTRERAS SOON WILL FIND HIMSELF IN MIDDLE OF THE COMPETING EFFORTS BY ALANISTAS AND ALVISTAS TO USE CONGRESS TO ADVANCE THEIR OWN POLITICAL AGENDAS. HOWEVER, WE PREDICT THAT ALVARADO CONTRERAS, A FEISTY AND DIMINUTIVE 59-YEAR-OLD LAWYER, WILL

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PAGE 02 LIMA 13273 04 OF 05 041756Z

## FIGHT LIKE A TERRIER TO KEEP CONGRESS

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POLITICALLY INDEPENDENT FROM THE EXECUTIVE  
BRANCH AND TO DEMAND MORE PARTY DISCIPLINE  
FROM HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE APRA CAUCUS.

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9. MARXIST CGTP REELECTS TOP LEADERS  
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DELEGATES OF THE VIII NATIONAL CONGRESS OF  
THE GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF PERUVIAN  
WORKERS (CGTP) WHICH MET IN LIMA IN LATE  
OCTOBER REELECTED MOST OF THEIR MARXIST  
LEADERS TO ANOTHER THREE-YEAR TERM.  
AMONG THE TOP PEOPLE RETURNING ARE  
ISIDORO GAMARRA (PRESIDENT) AND VALENTIN  
PACHO QUISPE (SECRETARY GENERAL), BOTH  
PCP-M. DELEGATES ALSO GAVE THEIR  
LEADERS THE AUTHORITY TO SET A DATE FOR  
ANOTHER GENERAL STRIKE SIMILAR TO THE  
ONE-DAY STRIKE HELD MAY 19 OF THIS YEAR.  
MODERATE ELEMENTS (PCP-M) WITHIN THE  
CGTP LEADERSHIP ARE RELUCTANT TO CALL  
A STRIKE, HOWEVER, UNTIL THE ECONOMIC  
AND POLITICAL SITUATION GETS MUCH WORSE  
THAN IT IS NOW, WHICH THEY BELIEVE MAY  
HAPPEN EARLY NEXT YEAR.

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10. UPCOMING EVENTS  
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PAGE 03                      LIMA 13273 04 OF 05 041756Z

A GROUP OF TEN APRA CONGRESSMEN HEADED BY  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT OF THE LOWER HOUSE  
WALTER CUESTAS WILL VISIT WASHINGTON  
NOVEMBER 9-11 TO LOOK INTO THE USE OF  
TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS IN  
CONGRESS FOR IDEAS ON HOW TO MODERNIZE  
THE PERUVIAN LEGISLATIVE SYSTEM. PRESENT  
UNREST AND VIOLENCE IN THE MINING SECTOR  
COULD ESCALATE IF DELEGATES TO A  
NOVEMBER 6-7 FEDERATION OF MINERS  
CONGRESS DECIDE TO CALL A NATIONAL STRIKE.  
FOREIGN MINISTER WAGNER AND MOST OF HIS  
LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS SPECIALISTS WILL  
LEAVE FOR WASHINGTON BETWEEN NOVEMBER 6-8 TO ATTEND THE  
OASGA AND OTHER REGIONAL MEETINGS. DELEGATES TO MARXIST  
SUTEP (TEACHERS UNION) VII NATIONAL  
ASSEMBLY NOVEMBER 18-19 ARE EXPECTED TO  
ANALYZE THE RESULTS OF THEIR TWO-DAY  
WARNING STRIKE IN LATE OCTOBER AND TO  
DECIDE WHETHER TO AUTHORIZE THEIR LEADERS

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TO CALL AN INDEFINITE NATIONAL STRIKE IN  
SUPPORT OF THE UNION'S COLLECTIVE  
BARGAINING DEMANDS. THE NATIONAL  
POPULAR ASSEMBLY (ANP) -- AN ATTEMPT TO  
FORM A COMMON FRONT OF MARXIST STUDENT,  
CAMPESENO, LABOR, AND POLITICAL GROUPS --  
IS SCHEDULED TO MEET IN VILLA EL SALVADOR  
NOVEMBER 19-22. ON THOSE SAME DATES,  
SEVERAL MARXIST CAMPESENO GROUPS ARE  
PLANNING A NATIONAL AGRARIAN SECTOR STRIKE  
TO PROTEST AGAINST THE GOP'S AGRARIAN  
POLICIES. ON NOVEMBER 26, AND REGARDLESS  
OF WHAT HAPPENS AT ITS EARLIER ASSEMBLY,  
SUTEP IS PLANNING TO HOST A MASSIVE

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PAGE 04

LIMA 13273 04 OF 05 041756Z

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PAGE 01 LIMA 13273 05 OF 05 041756Z  
ACTION ARA-00

INFO	LOG-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-10	SS-00	CIAE-00
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DEMONSTRATION IN LIMA IN SUPPORT OF A  
SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE NATION'S  
EDUCATION BUDGET. TO CLOSE THE MONTH,  
PRESIDENT GARCIA IS PLANNING TO ATTEND THE  
GROUP OF EIGHT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MEXICO  
CITY NOVEMBER 27-28.

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11. POLITICAL EVENTS REPORTED SEPARATELY  
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PAGE 02 LIMA 13273 05 OF 05 041756Z

-- 1990 ELECTIONS: LIMA 12612, 13043  
-- STRIKES: LIMA 12614, 12760, 12875, 13112

UNCLASSIFIED

-- COUP POSSIBILITIES: LIMA 12761  
-- PARAMILITARY ACTIVITIES: LIMA 12788, 13108  
-- POLITICAL BIAS IN THE COURTS: LIMA 13042  
-- FUROR OVER NEW COMPTROLLER GENERAL: LIMA 13113  
-- VISIT TO PUNO DEPARTMENT: LIMA 12922  
-- INSURGENCY/TERRORISM UPDATE: LIMA 13115  
-- HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT: LIMA 13116

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